

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF HOME)	
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFERED)	CASE NO.
BY INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES PURSUANT)	2019-00366
TO KRS 278.285(4))	

ORDER

The Commission, on its own motion, finds good cause to reschedule the hearing previously scheduled for March 17 and 18, 2020, in order to schedule an informal conference on March 17 and 18, 2020, for the purpose of providing the parties the opportunity to develop and propose uniform standards for home energy assistance (HEA) programs funded, in whole or in part, through surcharges paid by ratepayers.

This proceeding addresses crisis and subsidy HEA programs funded through a meter surcharge or volumetric surcharge paid by residential customers. As noted in the October 28, 2019 Order opening this proceeding, eligibility, benefits, and funding levels for HEA programs vary across the different jurisdiction utilities. The Commission's objective in initiating this proceeding is to establish uniformity in HEA program eligibility requirements, benefits, funding amounts, access, and to maximize the benefits to eligible HEA participants and to benefit all utility ratepayers.

Throughout this proceeding, the Commission has sought input and recommendations from the parties to achieve the stated outcome of standardizing HEA programs to the fullest extent possible. In response to informal comments from the parties

requesting the opportunity to meet to develop HEA program guidelines in a collaborative process that achieves the stated results.

The Commission finds that good cause exists to reschedule the hearing to Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, and continuing on Thursday, April 23, 2020. The Commission further finds that an informal conference should be scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, at the offices of the Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, and continue on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, if necessary, to provide the parties the opportunity to work cooperatively to develop uniform HEA program guidelines, with the limited participation of Commission Staff. All parties and their counsel are required to physically attend the informal conference. Representatives of each utility that is a party to this case should have the authority to negotiate on behalf of the utility and to recommend acceptance of a draft of HEA program guidelines developed at the informal conference to the appropriate decision-making body or officer for each utility. Excused attendance at the informal conference will be granted by the Commission only for good cause shown.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and Wednesday, March 18, 2020, is rescheduled.
2. The parties and their counsel shall appear on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and Wednesday, March 18, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, for an informal conference at the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, to discuss uniform HEA program guidelines.

3. The parties shall appear on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, and Thursday, April 23, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room (Hearing Room 1) of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of presenting evidence.

4. Kentucky Power Company (Kentucky Power), Louisville Gas and Electric Company (LG&E), Kentucky Utilities Company (KU), Duke Energy Kentucky (Duke Kentucky), Kentucky American Water Company (Kentucky-American), Columbia Gas Company (Columbia), and Delta Natural Gas Company (Delta) shall give notice of the hearing in compliance with 807 KAR 5:001 , Section 9(2)(b). In addition, the notice of hearing shall include the following statement: "This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov." At the time the notice is mailed or publication is requested, Kentucky Power, LG&E, KU, Duke Kentucky, Kentucky-American, Columbia, and Delta shall forward a duplicate of the notice and request to the Commission.

5. The April 22–23, 2020 hearing shall be recorded by digital video recording only.

By the Commission

ENTERED
MAR 02 2020
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:



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